

THE POWER AND THE GORY... SLAINE!

PROG 493
25 OCT 86

IN ORBIT
EVERY
MONDAY

2000 AD

FEATURING **JUDGE DREDD**

81.80 Malaysia
70c Australia
77c New Zealand
(inc G.S.T.)
88g Mercury
210g Venus
86g Mars
110g Saturn
2g Pluto
429g Neptune

26p
EARTH
MONEY



NERVE CENTRE

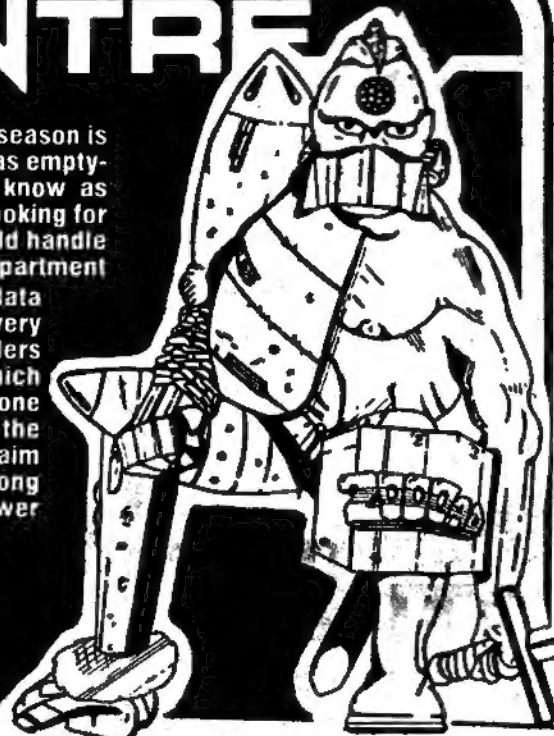
BORAG THUNGG. EARTHLETS.

A swift glance at my calendar is enough to give me the grim news: the grexnix season is upon us again. Once more the chill night air will be filled with shrill cries of pain, as empty-headed Earthlets begin to fool around with the lethal explosives which you know as "fireworks". These terrifying Terran toys are nothing but dangerous accidents looking for somewhere to happen. You would think that no-one but a complete nonscrot would handle them with anything but the utmost care...and yet every year the robots from the Department

of Trade and Industry give me the latest data on pyrotechnic-related accidents – and every year I find the names of a few 2000 AD readers on the list. Enough! As of this prog, which contains a Fireworks Code presented by none other than ROGUE TROOPER himself, the Squaxx dek Thargo will cease to maim themselves in this way...and we'll all live long enough to enjoy the unbelievable thrill-power of PROG 500!

SPLUNDIG VUR THRIGG!

THARG



THARGAGEDDON Drawn by Earthlet
Lee Aspland, Stockport. £10 Winner.

Sloane

**THE KENSINGTON
BERSERKER**



Drawn by Earthlet Dave Griffiths, Orpington.
£10 Winner.

VOTE HERE!

Each week Tharg displays your drawings and letters on his Nerve Centre. There are big cash prizes for every entry published, so write to him now! The address is: **THARG'S NERVE CENTRE, THE COMMAND MODULE, KING'S REACH TOWER, STAMFORD STREET, LONDON SE1 9LS.**

List your three favourite stories
IN THIS PROG on the coupon and
enclose it with your entry.

1.
2.
3.

I Dislike:

My Age is **493**

TO MY DEAREST DARLING MR X

Dear Sir,

I wonder if it is possible for you to print an important message in 2000 AD. It is for my boyfriend – **CENSORED** – who has been buying your magazine for years. He is 19 years old (so am I), and we have been together for nearly 2½ years. I would be extremely grateful if you could tell him how much I love him.

From Earthlet Pauline Paton, Galston,
Ayrshire. £5 Loser.

Okay, Terran pal of Pauline's...I've censored your name this time, but you know who you are – and so will the cosmos if £5 in Galactic Groats doesn't reach the Command Module very soon. Use a plain brown envelope, please, marked for the exclusive attention of SIM-1 but not at all anything to do with Tharg in any way.

MINE, FOR EXAMPLE

Dear Greenia,

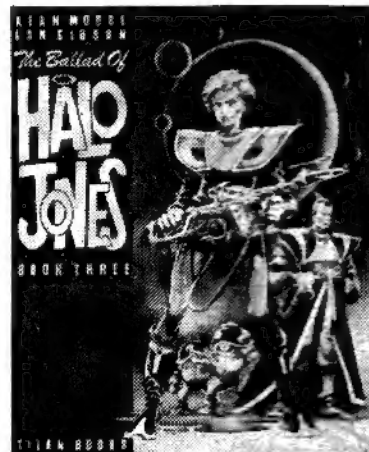
In Prog 485 *Judge Dredd* tells a colleague "Let's not speculate till we know for sure". How can you speculate about something you know for sure? Give me some money.

From Earthlet Mat Coward, London. £0 Winner.

At that point in the story ("Atlantic" Part 1) Dredd and his colleagues do not know whether or not the remains found in the stomach of a coral ray are human – and until he knows that, he's declining to speculate about how the remains got in there. You are clearly a grexnix, and I shall see to it that The Mighty Tharg's prize money ends up in more deserving grabbers than your own.

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Strontium Dog

MEANWHILE —

INCIDENT ON MAYGER MINOR PART 4



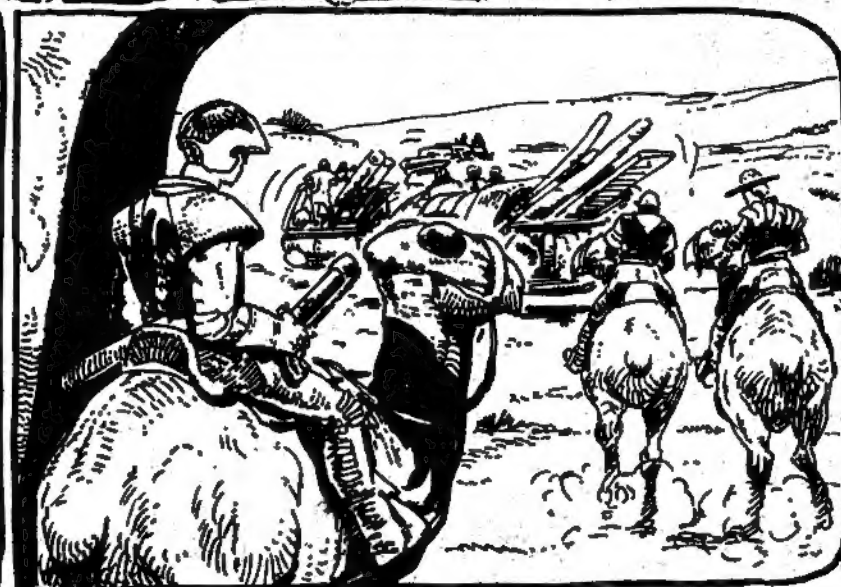
2000AD

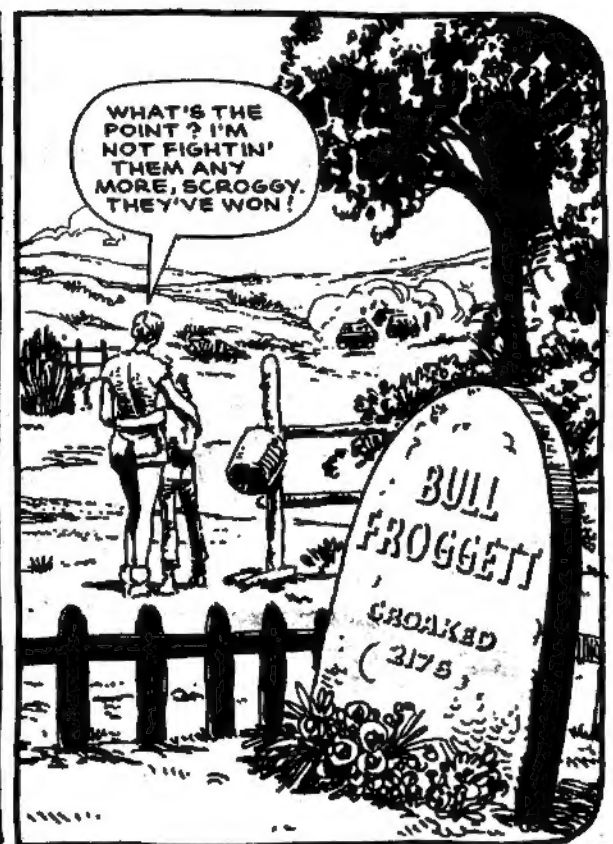
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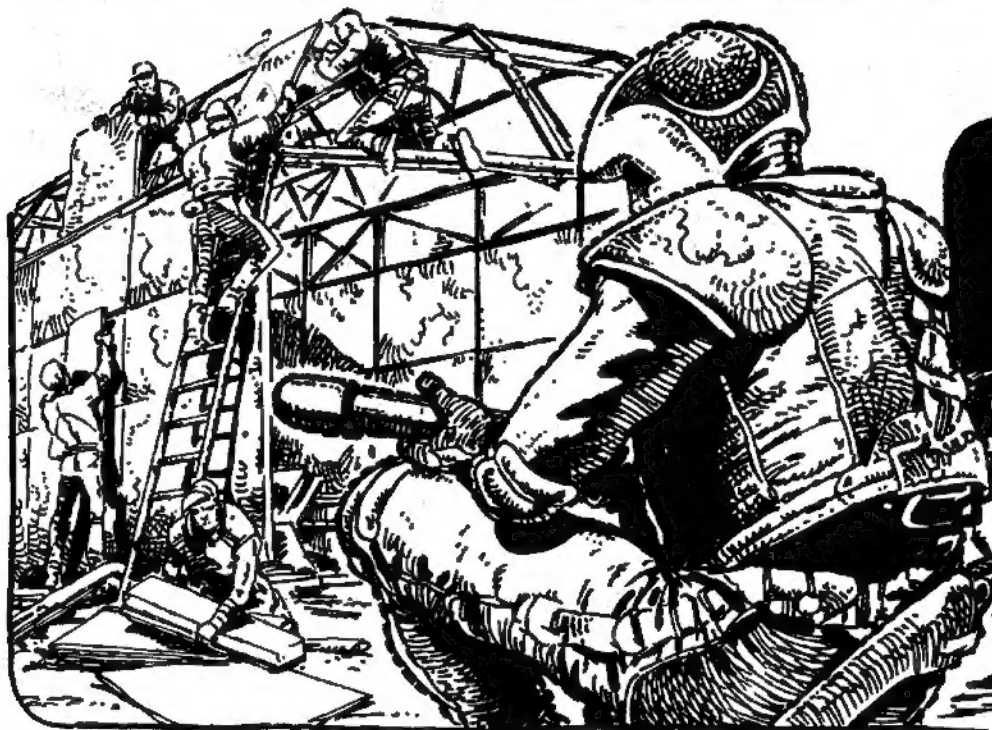
SCRIPT ROBOT
ALAN GRANT
ART ROBOT
C. EZQUERRA
LETTERING ROBOT
KID ROBSON

COMPU-73E









sooner or Later

by Milligan McCarthy Frame

AT LAST MICKY HAS ENTERED THE INNER SANCTUM OF THIS FUTILE FUTURE WORLD: THE BOARDROOM, WHERE THE BOARD HAS BEEN MEETING FOR THE LAST FIVE HUNDRED YEARS... FROM WHENCE THE BOARD ISSUES ITS EDICTS TO AN OBSEQUIOUS WORLD BY MEANS OF MESSAGES TAPPED OVER THE INTERCOM SYSTEM.

?
TAP
Tip
TAP Ti -
TAP
Tip

THROUGH A VENT IN THE WALL THE WIND WHISTLES - AND IT IS A STALE WIND, A WIND THAT HAS BLOWN FROM UNSPEAKABLE PLACES, A WIND THAT FASHIONS THE WORLD...

AND THIS WIND GAMBOLES PLAYFULLY AMONGST THE BONEY DIGITS OF THE BOARD.

AND THE DEAD FINGERS DANCE AND TAP AND TALK AND HOLD THE WORLD IN THEIR THOROUGHLY INDIFFERENT GRIP.

THE BOARD... ALL DEAD... JUST OLD SKELETONS BLOWING IN THE WIND. AND IF IT WASN'T FOR THEM THERE'D BE A REIGN OF CHAOS...

THERE'S A METAPHOR IN THERE SOMEWHERE...

FORGET IT, SONNY. IF GOD HAD MEANT YOU TO UNDERSTAND METAPHORS HE'D HAVE GIVEN YOU WINGS...

JUST WHAT I NEED.

I'M HEARING VOICES NOW!

NOT MUCH

WEXT

EPISODE FIVE

DEATH & WIZARDRY



INSIDE THE MYSTERIOUS TOWER, ALL IS QUIET....

BONES!



chi chi "chi chi"

HUSH, BUT SOMETHING FEELS WRONG

WHAT? THIS LOT HAVE BEEN DEAD FOR YEARS...



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WHHAA WHHAA WHHAA WHHAA

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Go for it lads. You'll soon make a big impression with your mates.





THARG'S
FUTURE-

SHOCKS

SAY
"AAAAAGH!"



URGH!
SICK-MANIA
'TROPOLIS!

MOST
BOGFOD IS
THE QUADRO-
SPEX!



TAKE
CREDI-DISK
THEN!



BACK IN
A FLASH!



OOOOH! LOOK
CHUNDERFUL!



TRANX!
WILL BE
BARF
OF THE
BALL!

2000AD
Credit Card!
SCRIPT ROBOT
STEVE MACHANUS
ART ROBOT
DAVE WYATT
LETTERING ROBOT
STEVE POTTER
COMPU-73e



FOLLOW ROGUE'S FIREWORK CODE...

And Stay Off The Casualty List!



**KEEP FIREWORKS
IN A CLOSED BOX.**



**TAKE THEM OUT
ONE AT A TIME.**



**READ INSTRUCTIONS
BY TORCHLIGHT.**



**LIGHT END OF FUSE
AT ARM'S LENGTH.**



STAND WELL BACK.



**NEVER RETURN TO
A FIREWORK ONCE LIT.**



**NEVER THROW
FIREWORKS.**



**NEVER PUT FIREWORKS
IN YOUR POCKET.**



KEEP PETS INDOORS.

ABOVE ALL, NEVER FOOL WITH FIREWORKS. AND NEVER—NEVER—ATTEMPT TO MAKE YOUR OWN: LAST YEAR ONE PERSON DIED AND TWENTY-ONE WERE INJURED AS A RESULT OF THIS DANGEROUS AND ILLEGAL PRACTICE.

Slane



SO WHAT
ARE THE SPOILS
OF ANNWN?
GOLD...? SILVER...?
AMBER...?

SCRIPT:
PAT MALLS
ART:
COLLINS/MARMER
LETTERING:
STEVE POTTER

HEAVENS ABOVE, HEAVENS
BELOW,
STARS ABOVE, STARS
BELOW,
ALL THAT IS OVER, UNDER
SHALL SHOW.
HAPPY THOU WHO THE
RIDDLE READEST.
Ancient Rhyme.

* ANNWN (pronounced 'Anson'):
THE UNDERWORLD.



PEARLS...? DIAMONDS...?
SAPPHIRES...? AT LEAST GIVE
US A CLUE WHAT WE'RE
LOOKING FOR!

I COULD MAKE
IT WORTH YOUR WHILE
...SHALL WE SAY...15%
OF THE TREASURE?

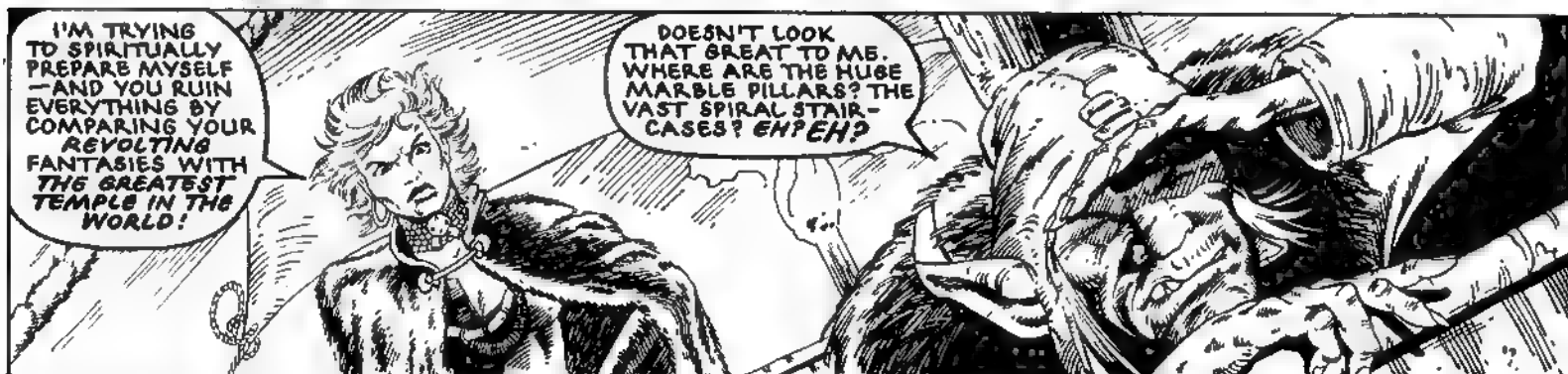


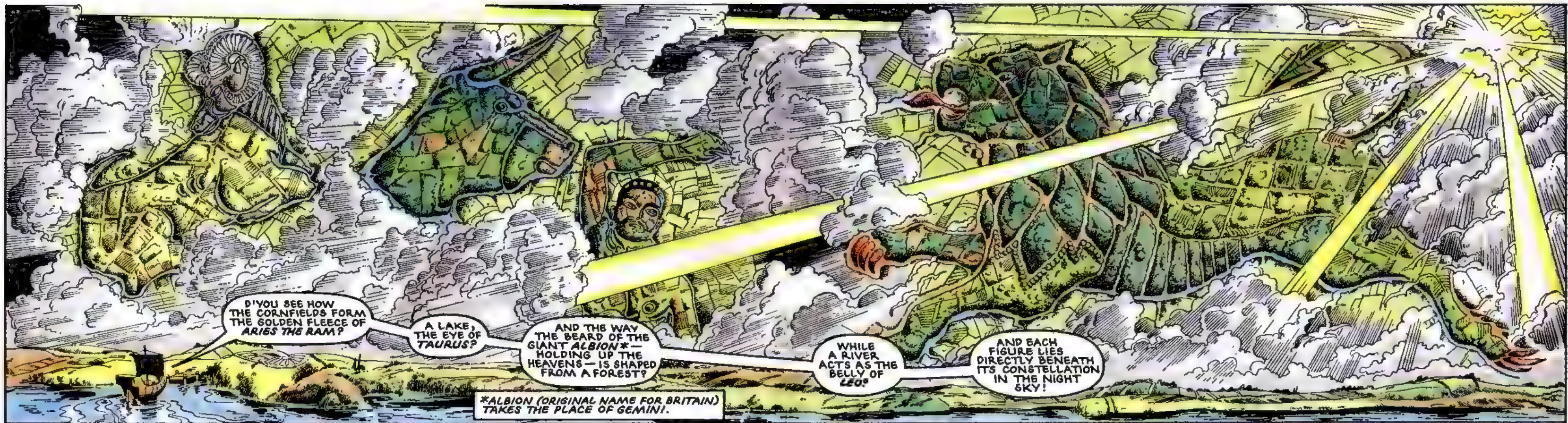
ALL RIGHT...20%...
NO? TSS... YOU'RE
REALLY TWISTING MY
ARM! VERY WELL...25%!
AND THAT'S MY FINAL
OFFER, MIND!





IN THE INTERESTS OF GOOD TASTE, UKKO'S FANTASIES HAVE BEEN DELETED.





D'YOU SEE HOW
THE CORNFIELDS FORM
THE GOLDEN FLEECE OF
ARIES THE RAM?

A LAKE,
THE EYE OF
TAURUS?

AND THE WAY
THE BEARD OF THE
GIANT ALBION*—
HOLDING UP THE
HEAVENS— IS SHAPED
FROM A FOREST?

WHILE
A RIVER
ACTS AS THE
BELLY OF
LEO?

AND EACH
FIGURE LIES
DIRECTLY BENEATH
ITS CONSTELLATION
IN THE NIGHT
SKY!

*ALBION (ORIGINAL NAME FOR BRITAIN)
TAKES THE PLACE OF GEMINI.



AHHH, IT'S
SOME KIND OF
TRICK! HOW'S IT DONE?
WITH MIRRORS?

IT IS, ACTUALLY.
THE CLOUD CANOPY IS
SEEDED WITH ICE CRYSTALS
SO IT ACTS LIKE AN
ENORMOUS MIRROR,
REFLECTING THE EARTH
BELOW IT.



THAT'S WHY
THIS SACRED PLACE
IS CALLED
GLASTONBURY...

...THE
GLASS
ISLANDS OF THE
DEAD.

THE
FERRYMAN
DOESN'T LOOK
VERY WELL,
THAT'S FOR
SURE.



THANKS.
I'LL
RECOMMEND
YOU TO MY
FRIENDS.



SO WHERE
DO YOU
FIT IN?
DON'T TELL
ME YOU'VE
GOT
RELIGION?

MYRDDIN
THE SORCERER
HAS FORETOLD I
WILL BECOME THE
SUN KING OF MY
TRIBE... BUT FIRST
I MUST MAKE A
RITUAL CIRCLE
OF THE TEMPLE...

...JUST AS
LUG THE SUN
GOD CIRCLES
THE STARS.



UNDER EACH SIGN
OF THE ZODIAC HE HAS
TO PERFORM A GREAT TASK...
LIKE DEFEATING A FABULOUS
BEAST OR RESCUING A
BEAUTIFUL MAIDEN...

AND IF
HE PASSES
THESE TESTS,
WE GET THE
TREASURE?
THESE SPOILS
OF ANNWN?

H'MM,
SOUNDS ALL
RIGHT... NICE
STRAIGHTFORWARD
HACK AND SLAY
JOB— EH, SLAINE?



BIT OF VIOLENCE...
BIT OF LOOTING...
AND MAYBE A
BIT OF—

OH, NO,
LUKKO...

...I THINK YOU'LL
FIND THERE'S JUST A
LITTLE MORE TO IT
THAN THAT!

Next:—THE EARTH
QUEST-BEGINS.—



IT HAD BEEN THREE YEARS NOW AND ROALD JARRICK HAD ALMOST FORGOTTEN...

THE FEAR...THE CONSTANT NIGGLING SUSPICION THAT SOMEONE KNEW - THAT HE'D MADE A MISTAKE - THAT SOMEHOW, SOMETHING WOULD GIVE HIM AWAY...



BUT THREE YEARS WAS A LONG TIME AND HE'D GOT AWAY WITH IT SO FAR. WHY SHOULD ANYONE EVER FIND OUT WHAT HE'D DONE?

DONNY...?



DONNY! IT'S YOU!

LET ME GO, WOMAN! I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT!



YOUR VOICE - IT-IT IS YOU!



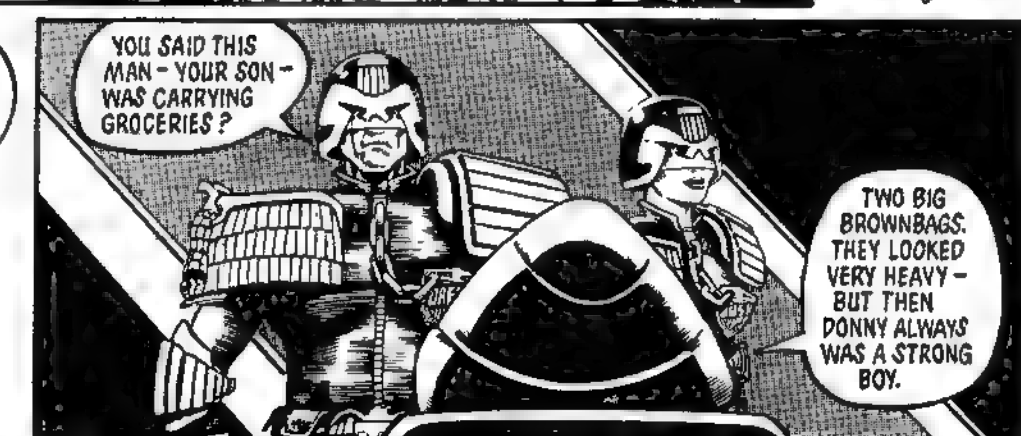
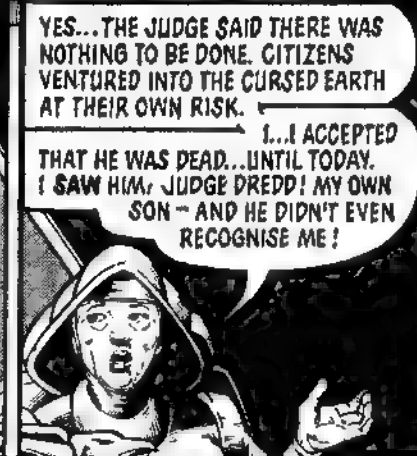
DONNY! COME BACK!

DONNY!

STOP HIM! STOP THAT MAN!

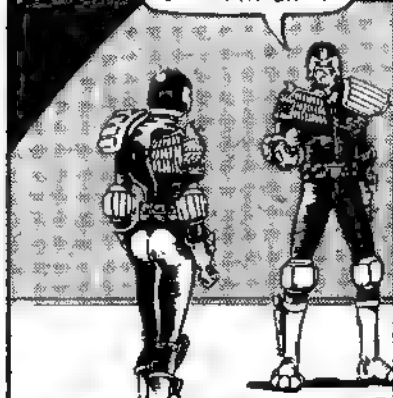


THAT'S MY SON!

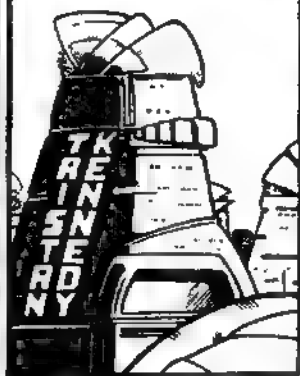


IF HE WAS WALKING, THAT SUGGESTS HE COULD BE LOCAL. RUN A COMPU-PRINT FROM RECORDS - LET'S START ASKING AROUND.

WORTH SEEING IF WE CAN FIND THIS SUPPOSED DONNY MOOMIN.

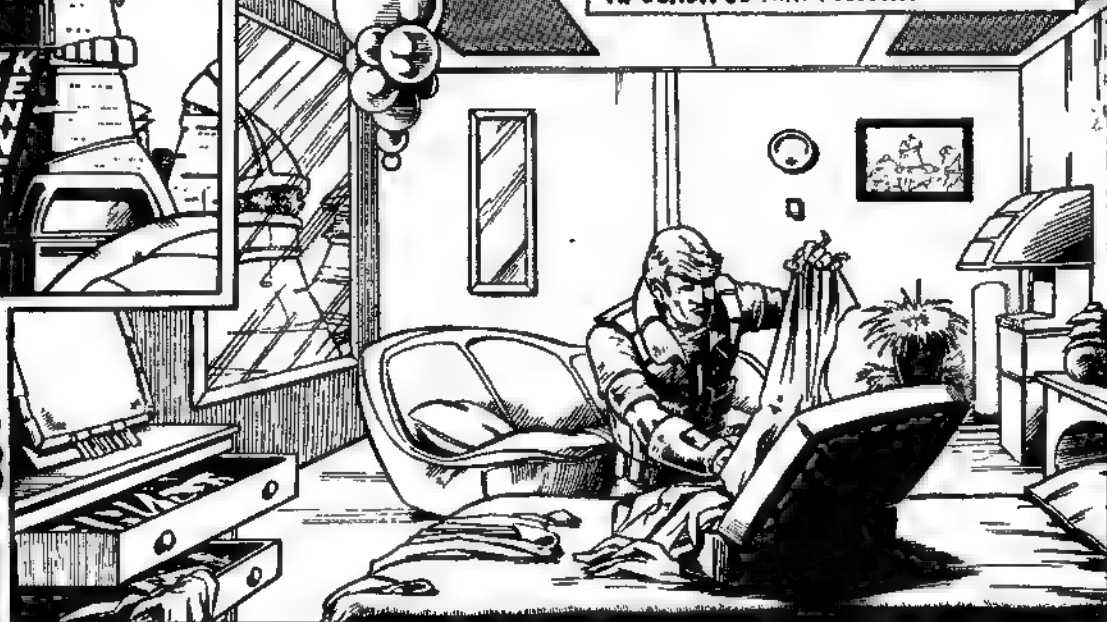


ONCE THERE HAD BEEN TWO MEN, KARLOF SCHULER AND DONNY MOOMIN.



AS MEN, THEY COULDN'T HAVE BEEN MORE DISSIMILAR. KARLOF SCHULER WAS OLD, 126 TO BE EXACT.

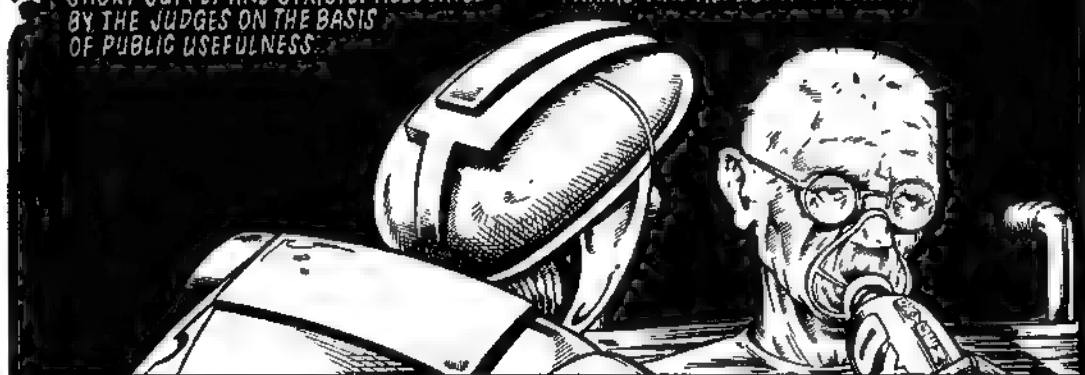
HE HAD BEEN BORN IN 1979, CELEBRATED HIS 21ST BIRTHDAY AT THE DAWN OF THE 21ST CENTURY, BUILT UP A SUBSTANTIAL FORTUNE FROM SHADY MUNITIONS DEALS DURING THE GREAT ATOM WARS AND - THANKS TO A MIXTURE OF AVARICE AND GUILE - MANAGED TO KEEP IT EVEN THROUGH THE DREADFUL APOCALYPSE THAT FOLLOWED.



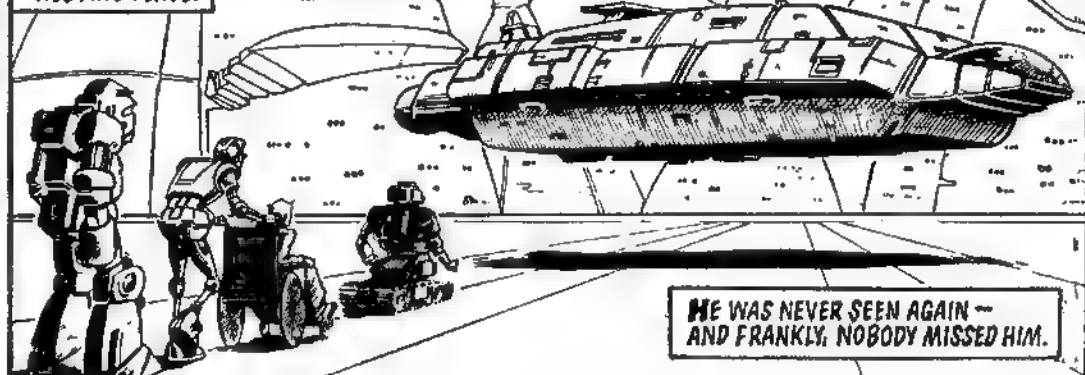
BUT EVEN THE BEST MEDICAL TECHNOLOGY MONEY COULD BUY - AND FREQUENT, ILLICIT RECOURSE TO THE GLAND OF THE STOOKIE - COULD NOT FOREVER HALT THE ONSLAUGHT OF TIME. MEDICS GAVE HIM THREE MONTHS AT THE OUTSIDE.

A WHOLE BODY TRANSPLANT WOULD HAVE SAVED HIM, BUT GOOD, FUNCTIONING CADAVERS WERE UNDERSTANDABLY IN SHORT SUPPLY AND STRICTLY ALLOCATED BY THE JUDGES ON THE BASIS OF PUBLIC USEFULNESS.

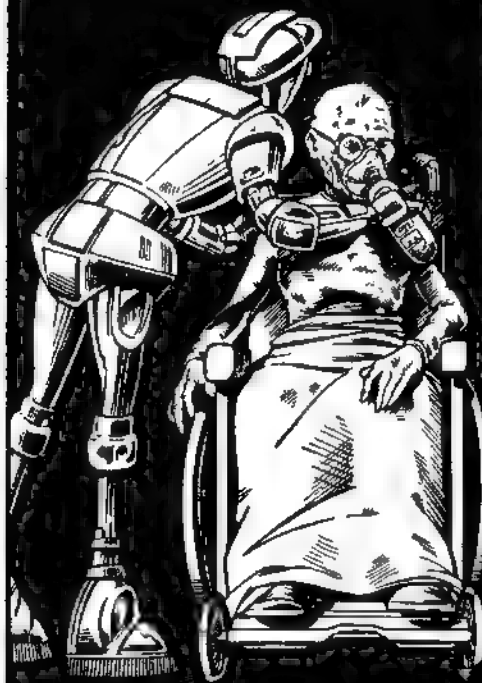
AS KARLOF SCHULER HAD NEVER BEEN OF USE TO ANYONE BUT HIMSELF, THAT KIND OF LET HIM OUT - AND THE THOUGHT OF A ROBOT FRAME WAS REPUGNANT TO HIM.



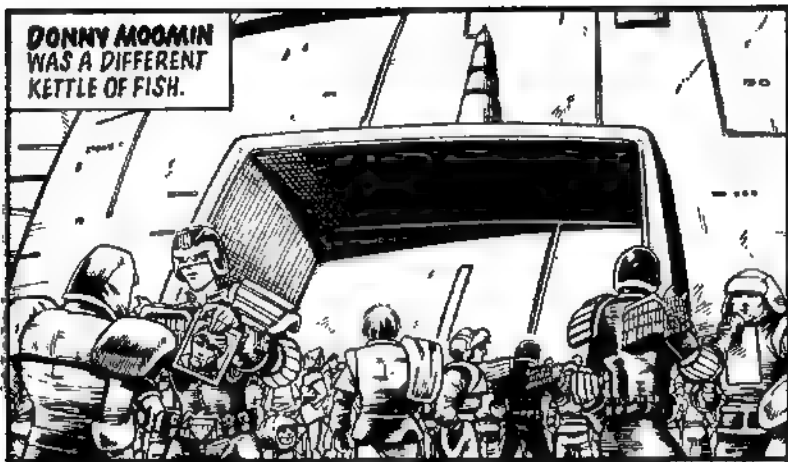
SO IN 2105 SCHULER SET HIS AFFAIRS IN ORDER, LIQUIDISED HIS ASSETS AND ANNOUNCED TO THE CITY THAT HE WAS GOING OFF TO FIND HIS LAST RESTING PLACE.



HE WAS NEVER SEEN AGAIN - AND FRANKLY, NOBODY MISSED HIM.



DONNY MOOMIN
WAS A DIFFERENT
KETTLE OF FISH.



IN 2105 HE HAD BEEN 19. STRONG, YOUNG, FIT;
A CHEERFUL, OUTGOING LAD.



IN THE SUMMER OF THAT YEAR
DONNY HAD INVESTED HIS
ENTIRE SAVINGS IN THE
HOLIDAY OF A LIFETIME —



YOU REALISE
ONCE THROUGH THESE
GATES YOU'RE ON
YOUR OWN.

WHATEVER HAPPENS TO YOU
OUT THERE, WE CANNOT
HELP YOU!

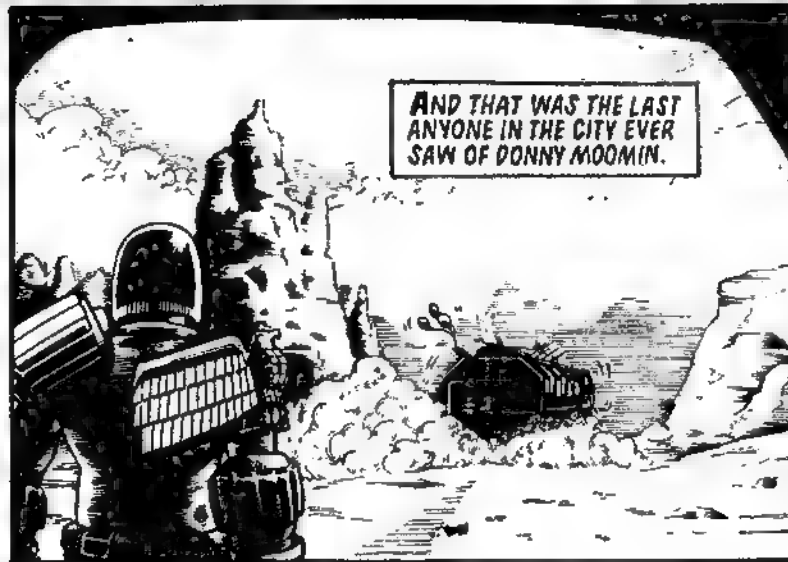
DON'T WORRY!
WE'RE ARMED TO
THE TEETH,
JUDGE.

WE'RE GOING
DINOSAUR
HUNTING!

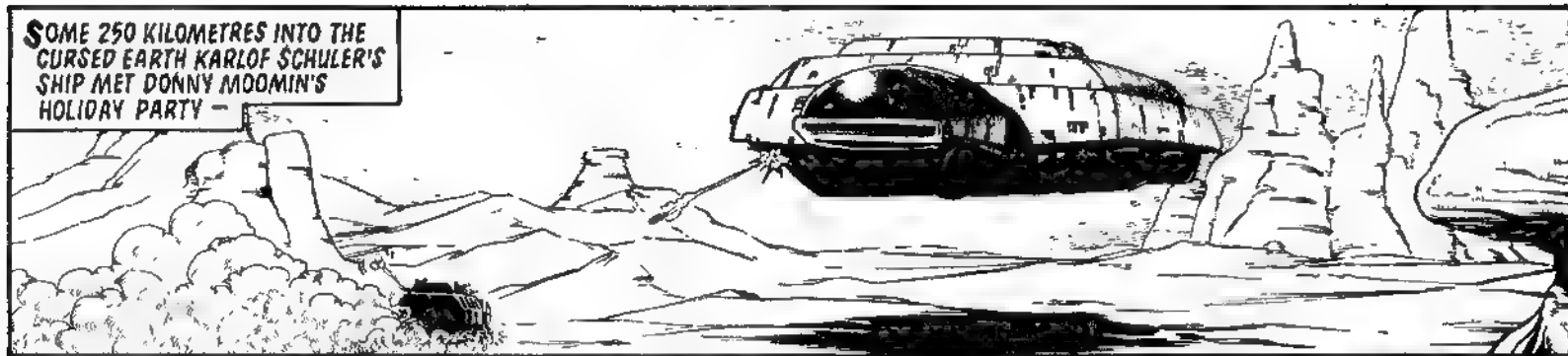
RAD
EXPR



AND THAT WAS THE LAST
ANYONE IN THE CITY EVER
SAW OF DONNY MOOMIN.



SOME 250 KILOMETRES INTO THE CURSED EARTH KARLOF SCHULER'S SHIP MET DONNY MOOMIN'S HOLIDAY PARTY -

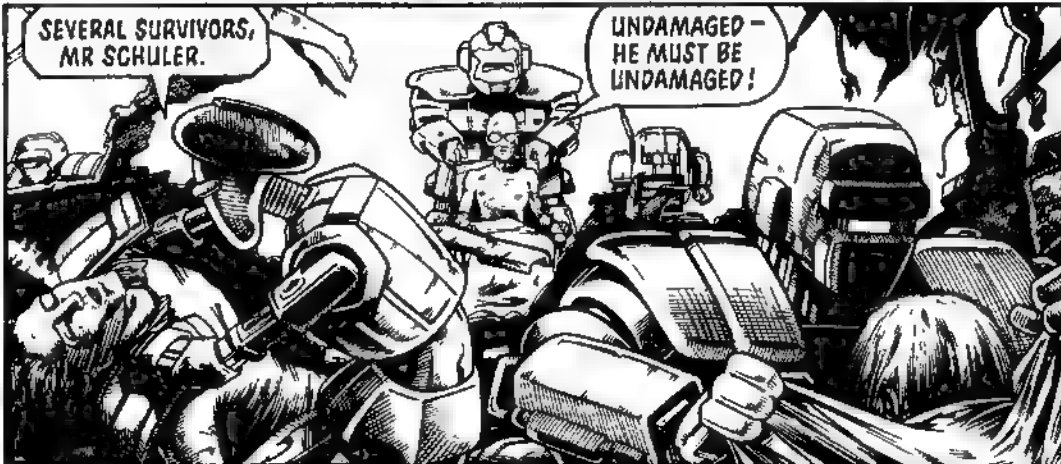


THE FIRST SHOT TOOK OUT THE ENTIRE FRONT SECTION AND EFFECTIVELY ENDED ANY RESISTANCE THERE MIGHT HAVE BEEN.



SEVERAL SURVIVORS, MR SCHULER.

UNDAMAGED - HE MUST BE UNDAMAGED!



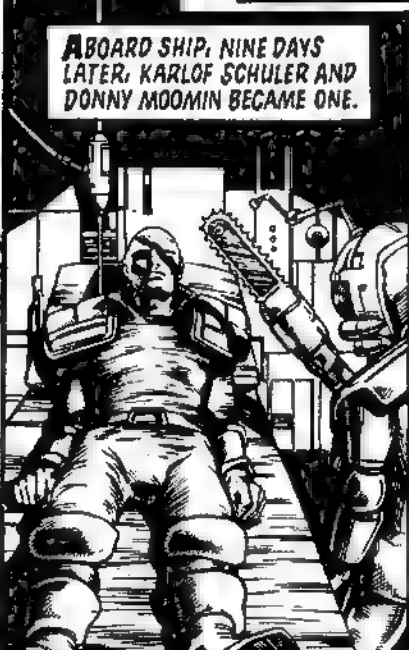
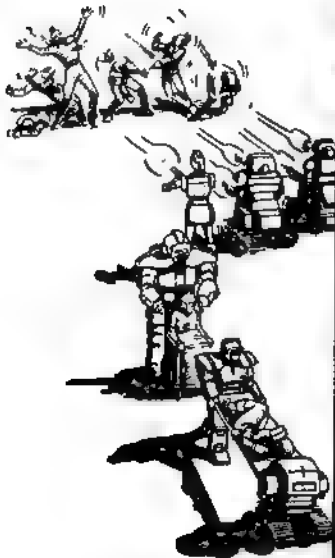
DONNY MOOMIN WAS CHOSEN -

HE HAS SLIGHT CONCUSSION - OTHERWISE IN PERFECT HEALTH.

VERY WELL. TAKE HIM ABOARD. SEE THE OTHERS ARE SILENCED.



ABOARD SHIP, NINE DAYS LATER, KARLOF SCHULER AND DONNY MOOMIN BECAME ONE.



IF SCHULER FELT ANY GUILT, IT WAS NEGLIGIBLE. NO. IF ANYONE WAS TO BLAME, IT WAS THE JUDGES. THEY'D REFUSED HIM THE TRANSPLANT.



HE WAS RICH. HE HAD A RIGHT TO LIVE.



HE'D HAD A NEW IDENTITY PREPARED, AN APARTMENT WAITING AND MORE THAN AMPLE FUNDS SALTED AWAY. WITH FINGERPRINTS AND DENTITION SURGICALLY ALTERED, HE WAS READY TO BEGIN A NEW LIFE.

NOT THAT ROALD DIDN'T HAVE CONTINGENCY PLANS IN CASE OF EMERGENCY - ANOTHER BOLTHOLE, A NEW IDENTITY...

KARLOF SCHULER AND DONNY MOOMIN WERE DEAD. ROALD JARRICK WAS BORN.

GOING SOMEWHERE, CITIZEN?

FOOLISH.

KRAK!

THE MARK OF THE SURGEON'S
SAW WAS THE GIVEAWAY —

BODYSNATCHER.

ROALD JARRICK
EASILY CRACKED
UNDER
INTERROGATION —

THE BODY BELONGS TO YOUR SON,
MRS MOOMIN... BUT I'M AFRAID
THE BRAIN BELONGS TO ONE
KARLOF SCHULER.

OH, THE MONSTER!
THE EVIL MONSTER!

I'M SENTENCING YOU
TO LIFE, SCHULER,
WITH AN INSTRUCTION
THAT YOU NEVER
BE RELEASED.

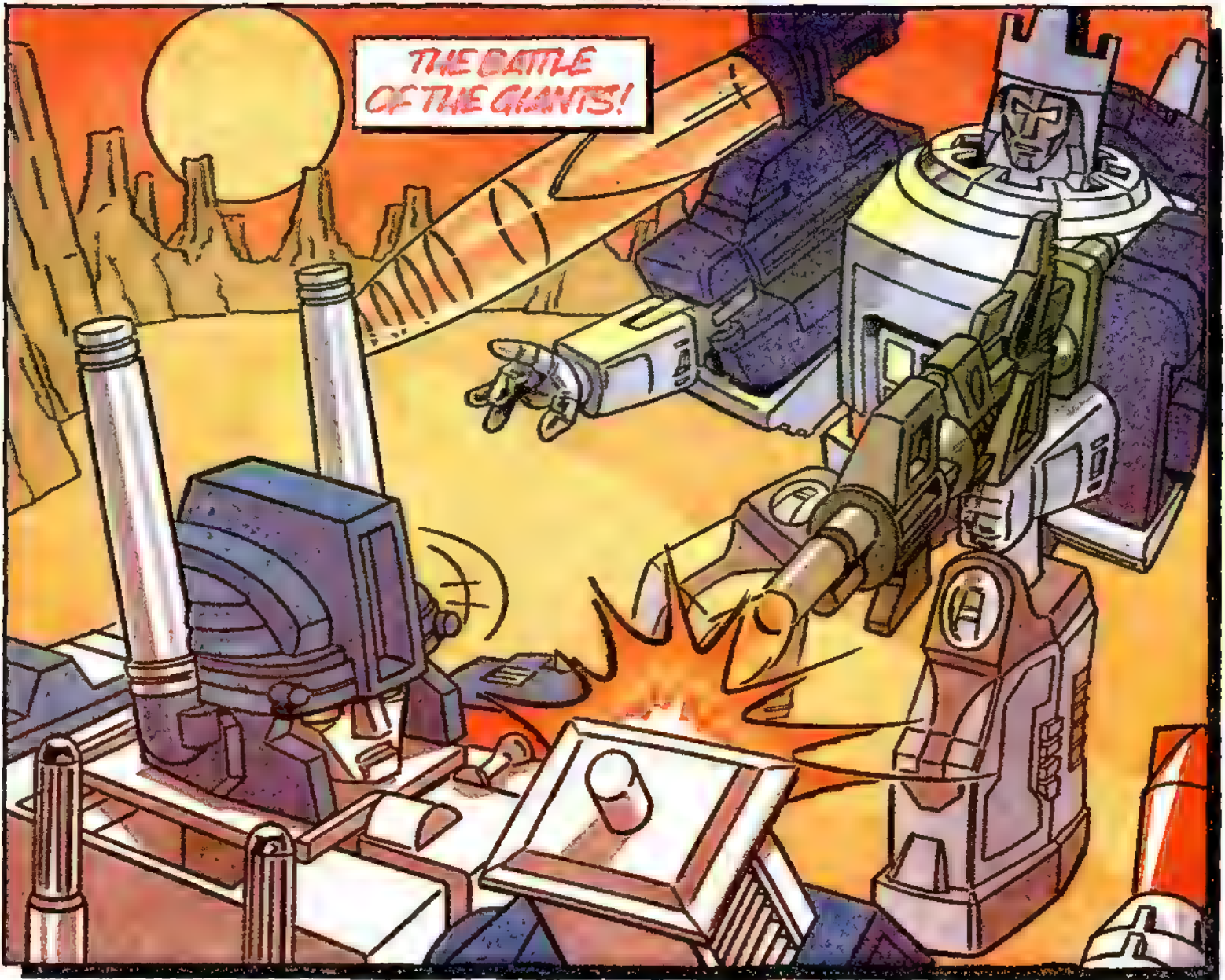
ONE OTHER
THING...

TECHNICALLY YOU'RE IN POSSESSION OF
STOLEN PROPERTY. IT'S MY DUTY TO
SEE THAT IT'S RETURNED TO THE
VICTIM'S MOTHER FOR DECENT DISPOSAL.

KARLOF SCHULER IS NOW IN ISO-BLOCK 50. THE INSTRUMENTS
SHOW HE'S STILL ALIVE, BUT WHAT HE'S THINKING NO ONE KNOWS.

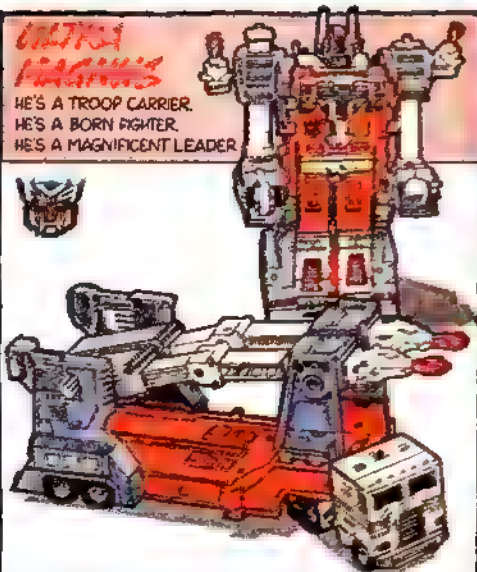
PROBABLY, IF ANY VESTIGE OF SANITY REMAINS —
WHICH IS DOUBTFUL — HE'S WISHING HE'D SETTLED
FOR THE ROBOT MODEL BACK IN 2105.

NEXT
PROG: PHANTOM OF THE SHOPPERA!



ULTRA MAGNUS

HE'S A TROOP CARRIER.
HE'S A BORN FIGHTER.
HE'S A MAGNIFICENT LEADER.



THEY HAVE ARRIVED —THE NEW— LEADERS

ULTRA MAGNUS THE BOLDEST BRAVEST COMMANDER THE AUTOBOTS HAVE EVER KNOWN.

GALVATRON THE NEW DECEPTICON LEADER. LASER CANNON AND FEARSOME WARRIOR. THERE CAN ONLY BE ONE WINNER.

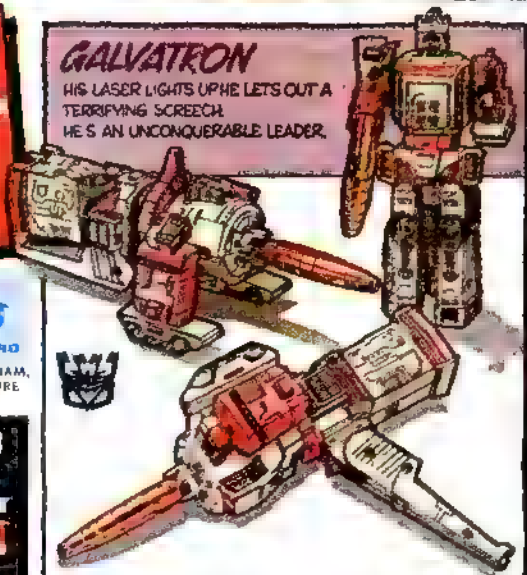


MYNRO
WOKINGHAM,
BERKSHIRE



GALVATRON

HIS LASER LIGHTS UP HE LETS OUT A TERRIFYING SCREECH. HE'S AN UNCONQUERABLE LEADER.



Sláine

Spoils of Annwn

data file

Myrddin, the sorcerer who sent Sláine on his quest.

The map on this page is a reconstruction of how the Glastonbury Zodiac would have looked in Sláine's time. As you can see, each zodiacal figure lies beneath its own constellation.

On the page opposite, Sláine script writer PAT MILLS researches the background to this incredible 'Temple Of The Stars', traces of which can still be seen in Somerset today!

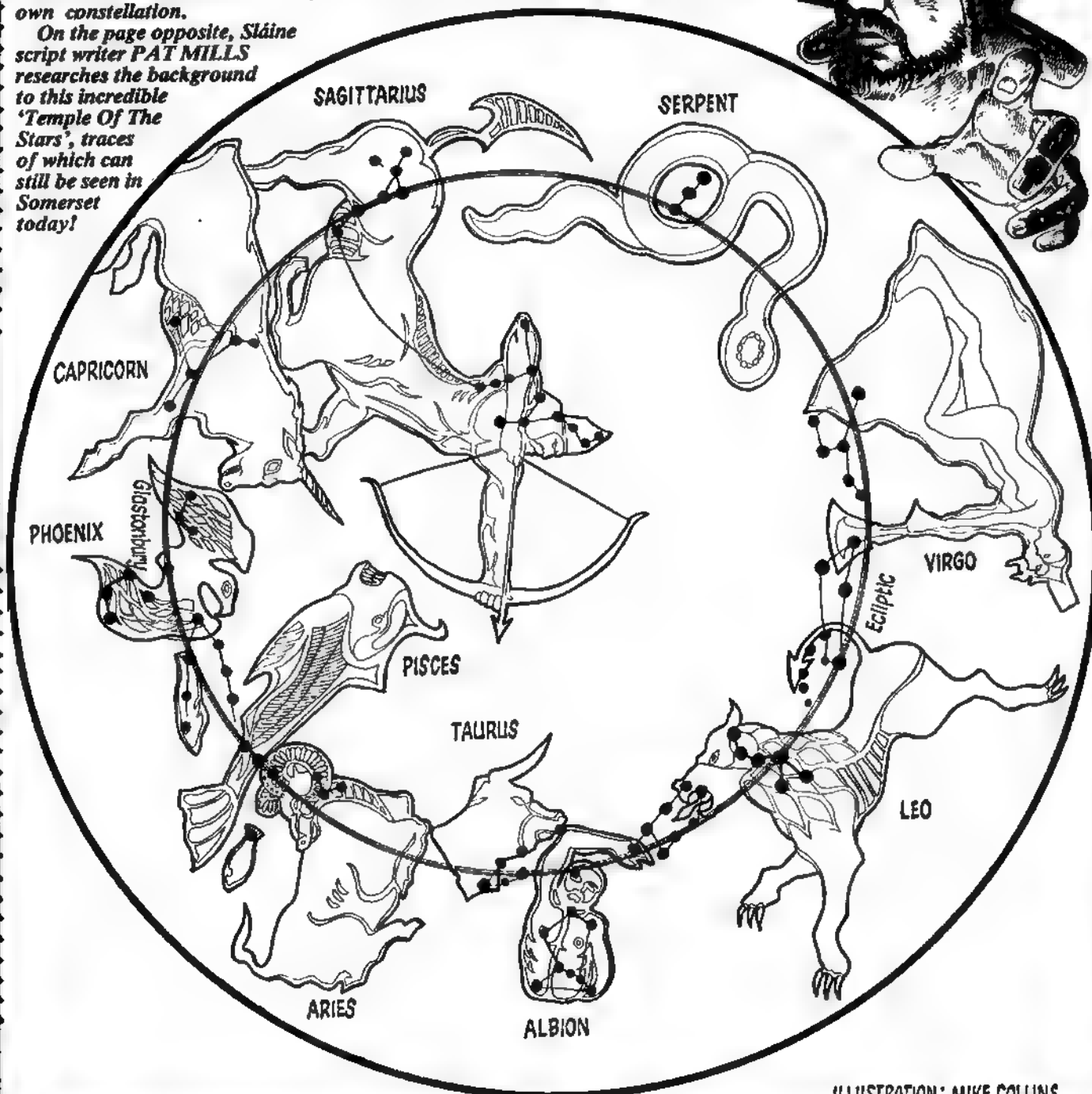


ILLUSTRATION: MIKE COLLINS.



Temple of Stars

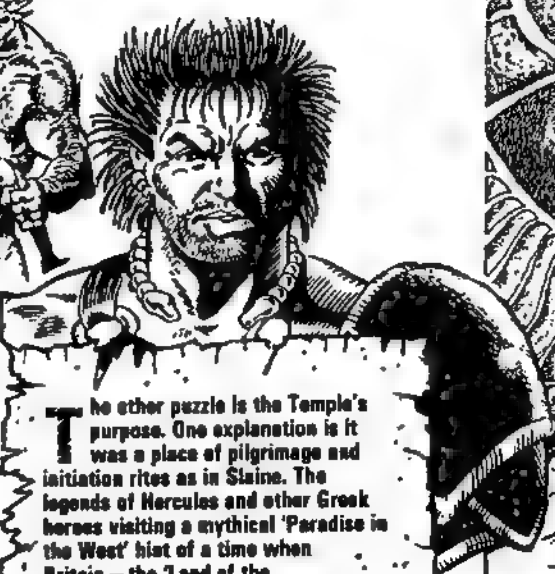
The Glastenbury Zodiac, a celestial circle of fabulous beasts carved in the landscape by making use of natural features like woods, rivers and hills, was discovered in 1935. The circle has a circumference of 30 miles and most of the giants are over two miles long — forming a prehistoric 'Temple of the Stars' more incredible than Stonehenge or the Great Pyramid. Even more astonishing, each zodiacal figure lies directly beneath its own stars in the ecliptic — the circle of the Zodiac — in prehistoric times.



Originally, there may have only been ten signs in the Zodiac. Cancer and Libra were added later (Libra by the Romans in honour of Julius Caesar), so they are not featured in our reconstruction designed to show how the Temple might have looked in Staine's time. The Zodiac also varies in different civilisations and so some of the signs are unfamiliar. The British (Welsh) word for Scorpio is Sarff or Serpent and it seems more likely this would have been the original sign. Albion (or Atlas) replaces Gemini; a Unicorn (a mythical goat) takes the place of the usual sea-goat for Capricorn; and a Phoenix acts as the water-carrier Aquarius for reasons which become clear later in the story.



There are references to this 'Great Secret of Britain' in the works of the Druid Taliesin, Nostradamus and the Elizabethan sorcerer John Dee, as well as circumstantial evidence like place names and the remains of an impressive roadway leading to Glastenbury which dates back to 3000 B.C. The Temple is not, however, accepted by archaeologists as its existence cannot be proved. Believers can see the figures, sceptics can't. Sceptics also have two other objections... How could such massive figures be seen from the ground, and what was it all for? A semi-magical theory is used in the story... The Druids had found a way of reflecting the earth onto the clouds — an optical illusion using a similar principle to a mirage. (In a mirage an oasis over the horizon is reflected from the sky which acts like a giant mirror.) In fact, from the top of Glastenbury Tor, a strange pyramid-shaped hill located in Phoenix, it is possible — as Staine artist Mike Collins discovered recently — to see across nine counties and make out the vague outlines of the 'Giants in the Earth' below. In prehistoric times, when the water-table was higher, many of the beasts would have been surrounded by water bringing out their shape.



The other puzzle is the Temple's purpose. One explanation is it was a place of pilgrimage and initiation rites as in Staine. The legends of Hercules and other Greek heroes visiting a mythical 'Paradise in the West' hint of a time when Britain — the 'Land of the Blessed' — was a great centre of Ancient Wisdom. Indeed, the Labours of Hercules — like many quests — are based on the Zodiac and are drawn on in Staine.

Glastenbury also has strong links with the Grail legend and the Temple may have been the original Round Table, for... "The Round Table was made on the advice of Merlin and signified the round world, the round canopy of the planets, stars and other things..." and... "It could feed four thousand people and one hundred and fifty bulls".

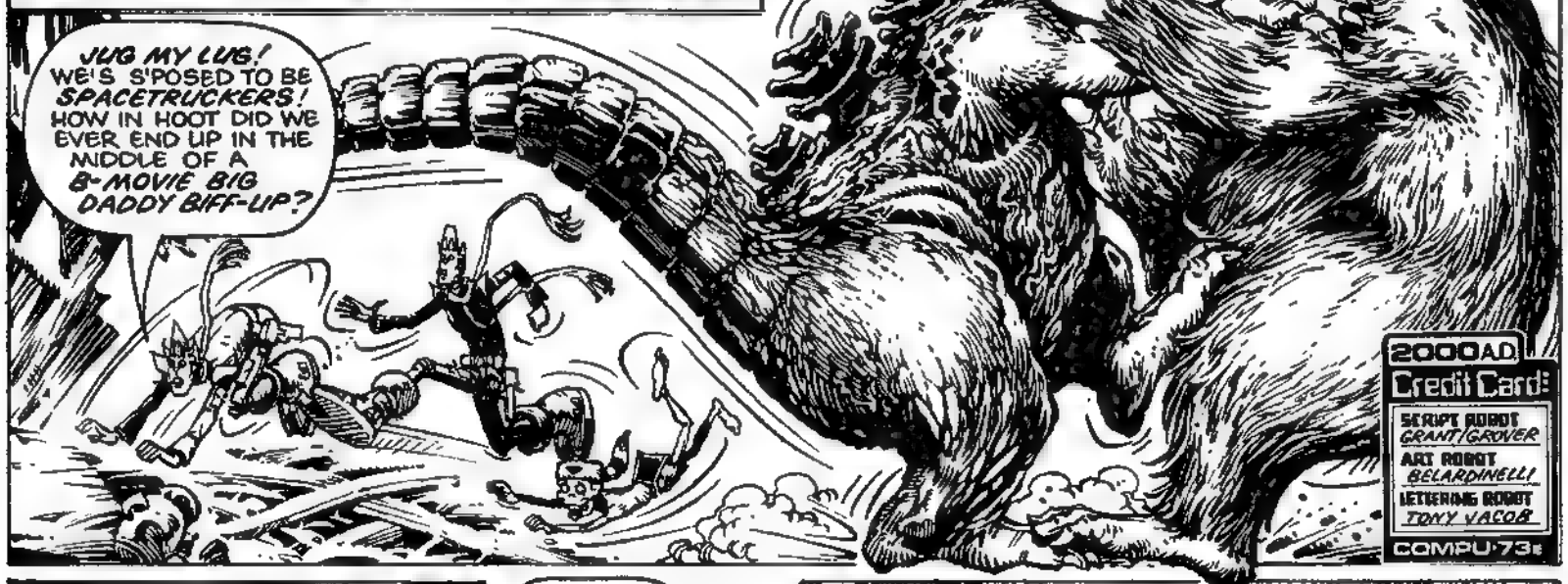


It seems appropriate, therefore, that the Giant Albion — the first name for Britain — should be supporting the Temple of the Stars, while facing each other across it are these other British symbols — the Lion and the Unicorn.

Other possible Earth Zodiacs have been found elsewhere in Britain in Kingston, Nuthampstead, Painsaint, Painsley and Durham. If their existence can definitely be established, then the theory that they are a recurring pattern in the landscape, created by cosmic forces and recognised and shaped by Ancient Man will have been proved beyond doubt!

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THE SEARCH FOR THE BURIED TREASURE OF MOVIEOLA BRINGS OUR HEROES TO HORRORVILLE, WHERE IT'S KING KONG V. GODZILLA!



JUG MY LUG!
WE'S S'POSED TO BE
SPACETRUCKERS!
HOW IN HOOT DID WE
EVER END UP IN THE
MIDDLE OF A
B-MOVIE BIG
DADDY BIFF-UP?

2000AD
Credit Card:
SCRIPT ROBERT
GRANT/GROVER
ART ROBERT
BELARDINELLI
LETTERING ROBERT
TONY VACOR
COMPU'73



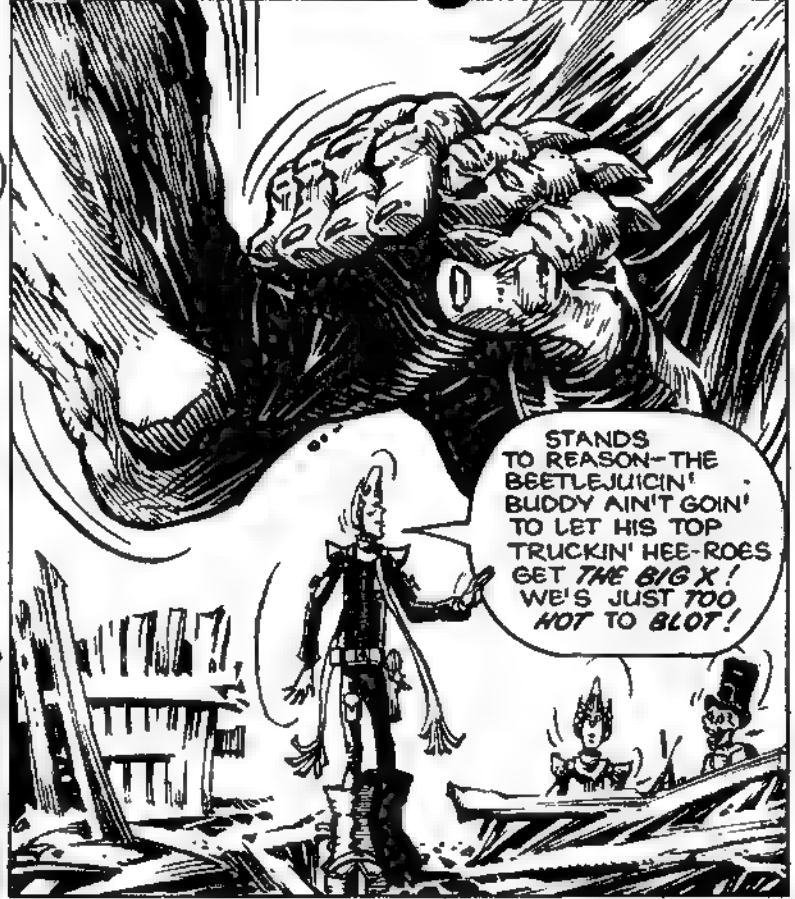
SEARCH ME, DOPPELGARPIN'
BUDDY - BUT I KNOWS HOW
WE'S GOIN' TO GET OUT OF
IT! WE'S JUST GOIN' TO
DOE IT RIGHT THROUGH
THEM!

NOT
BE DUMB!
YOU JUST
GET SELF
KILL!



ON SECOND
THOUGHT,
NOT SUCH
BAD IDEA!

KEEP WALKIN',
PENCILHEAD!



STANDS
TO REASON - THE
BEETLEJUICIN'
BUDDY AIN'T GOIN'
TO LET HIS TOP
TRUCKIN' HEE-ROES
GET THE BIG X!
WE'S JUST TOO
HOT TO BLOT!





**CUT TO: THE ROAD
TO HORRORVILLE.
A FOOT-WEARY
BUT HATE-FILLED
EVIL GUTS
APPROACHES—**

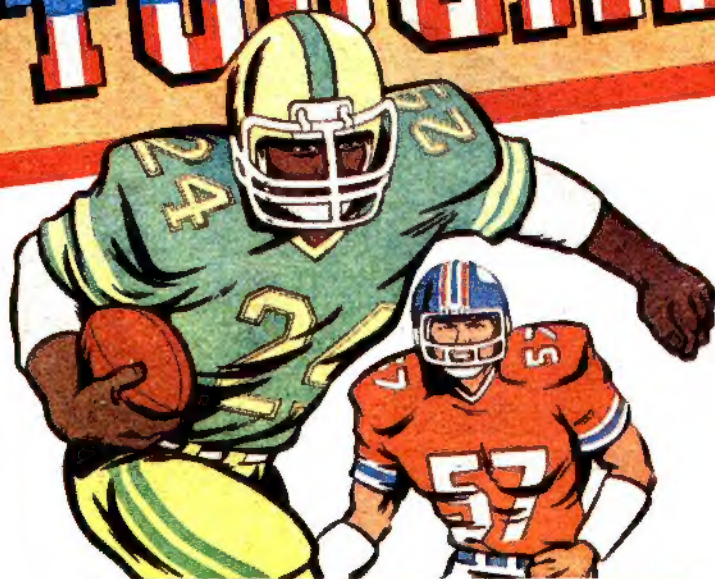




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